

A new variety of *Astragalus hyalinus* (Fabaceae) from Wyoming

Robert D. Dorn

8481 Road 39, Lingle, WY 82223, USA, linglebird@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

Astragalus hyalinus M. E. Jones var. *glabratus* Evert ex Dorn (Fabaceae) from the northwest edge of the range of the species in Park County, Wyoming is described. The new variety has the dorsal surface of the petals glabrous unlike the typical variety which has the dorsal surface of the petals conspicuously villous. The new variety tends to have fewer ovules also. Published on-line www.phytologia.org *Phytologia* 96(1): 26-27 (Jan. 8, 2014). ISSN 030319430

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In 1981 Erwin Evert discovered a slightly disjunct population of *Astragalus hyalinus* M. E. Jones on the northwest edge of the species range with the dorsal surface of the petals glabrous unlike the villous dorsal petal surface in the rest of the range of the species. When Evert completed his annotated catalog and atlas of plants of the Yellowstone area (Evert 2010), he treated these plants as “++**Astragalus hyalinus** Jones var. **glabratus** undescribed variety.” The double plus meant an endemic taxon confined to the Greater Yellowstone Area. He gave the range as Cedar and Sheep Mountains west of Cody, Park Co., Wyoming. Four months after completing his catalog and atlas, he was tragically killed by a grizzly bear about 40 kilometers west of the *Astragalus* populations. The purpose of this paper is to validate the name Evert provided for this variant of *Astragalus hyalinus*.

***Astragalus hyalinus* M. E. Jones var. *glabratus* Evert ex Dorn, var. nov.**

Type: USA, Wyoming, Park Co., Cedar Mountain ca. 5 mi SW of Cody, T52N R102W Section 8 NW ¼, rocky calcareous ridge, 7600 ft, 30 June 1989, R. Dorn 5023 (HOLOTYPE: RM, ISOTYPE: MO; PARATYPE: USA, Wyoming, Park Co., Cedar Mt., ca. 5 mi SW of Cody, 7 July 1981, E. F. Evert 3012 NY).

Differt a var. *hyalinus* petalis dorsaliter glabris et ovulis vulgo paucior (var. *glabratus* 6-8, var. *hyalinus* 8 vel 9). Differing from var. *hyalinus* in having the petals glabrous dorsally and the ovules commonly fewer (var. *glabratus* 6-8, var. *hyalinus* 8 or 9). Despite the number of ovules, the seeds are often only one or two. The petals of var. *glabratus* sometimes have a short tuft of hairs at the very base. In var. *hyalinus* the petals are conspicuously villous dorsally. *Astragalus hyalinus* differs from other trifoliate *Orophaca Astragali* by either the long calyx tube, 5.5 mm or more long, or the fiddle-shaped banner. It generally blooms later than the other *Orophaca Astragali*. The species ranges from southern Montana and southwest South Dakota south through Wyoming (except the southwest), western Nebraska, northwest Kansas, and northeast Colorado. Variety *glabratus* is known only from Park County, Wyoming 8-24 km southwest of Cody on Cedar and Sheep mountains from 1900 to 2310 m (6500-7600 ft) on limestone outcrops. The closest known populations of var. *hyalinus* are about 75 km to the east.

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LITERATURE CITED

Evert, E. F. 2010. Vascular plants of the greater Yellowstone area: annotated catalog and atlas. Published by author, Park Ridge, IL. Available at www.rmh.uwyo.edu